

In the Claims:

Please substitute claims 1, 3, 6-13, 15, 17-26, 28-29, and 31-32 presented below for claims 1, 3, 6-13, 15, 17-26, 28-29, and 31-32 previously presented. Please cancel claims 4-5, 14, 27, and 30. Please add claims 33-36. The status of each claim is indicated. Currently amended claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~.

1. (Currently amended) A ureteral stent for placement in a ureter~~medical device for use within a body cavity, the medical device~~ comprising:

an elongated body portion defining a lumen, said body portion comprising a proximal end for placement within one of a ureter and a bladder of a patient, a distal end for placement within a kidney of the patient, a proximal portion, and a distal portion; and,

a retention module disposed proximal to said proximal end of said elongated body portion for retaining a portion of the stent in the bladder, said retention module comprising at least onea fixation element bead having a diameter between 3 and 10 millimeters, the at least one bead being attached to the elongated body portion by at least one tether connector, wherein the at least one said fixation element bead is substantially buoyant relative to urine~~at least one body fluid~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, wherein the at least one bead ~~has~~comprises a size and configuration that prohibits the passage of the at least one bead~~said fixation element~~ from the ~~lumen of the urinary bladder~~ into the lumen of the ~~ureter~~.

4.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, wherein said proximal portion of said elongated body portion is substantially more compressible than the other portions of said elongated body portion.

7. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, ~~wherein~~further comprising a plurality of the retention modules includes a plurality of beads.

8. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, wherein said at least one tether connector is substantially elastic.

9. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, wherein said tether connector is substantially rigid.

10. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, wherein said distal portion of said elongated body portion comprises a planar spiral loop for retention in the renal pelvis.

11. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, wherein said elongated body portion is substantially rigid to prevent its deformation during insertion through the ureter.

12. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, wherein said elongated body portion defines a plurality of openings along its length.

13. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 1, wherein the at least one bead~~said fixation element~~ is substantially spherical.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating at least partial ureteral obstruction of a patient, comprising:

(a) providing a medical device comprising an elongated body portion defining a lumen, the body portion comprising a proximal end for placement in one of a ureter and a bladder of the patient, a distal end for placement in a kidney of the patient, a proximal portion, and a distal portion, the medical device further comprising a retention module disposed proximal to said proximal end of the elongated body portion, said retention module comprising at least one bead~~fixation element~~ attached to the elongated body portion by at least one tether connector, the bead having a diameter between 3 and 10 millimeters, the bead~~said fixation element~~ being substantially buoyant relative to urine~~at least one body fluid~~; and

(b) inserting the medical device into the patient such that the at least one bead~~said fixation element~~ is positioned in the bladder of the patient.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one bead~~fixation element comprises~~ has a size and configuration that prohibits the passage of the beads~~said fixation element~~ from the ~~lumen of the urinary bladder~~ into the lumen of athe ureter.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein ~~said device further comprises a plurality of the retention modules~~ has a plurality of beads.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said at least one tether connector is substantially elastic.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15 wherein said tether connector is substantially rigid.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15 wherein said distal portion comprises a planar spiral loop for retention in the renal pelvis.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said elongated body portion is substantially rigid to prevent its deformation during insertion through the ureter.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said elongated body portion defines a plurality of openings along its length.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein ~~the beadsaid fixation element~~ is substantially spherical.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the diameter of ~~the beadsaid fixation element~~ is greater than the diameter of ~~the~~ lumen of ~~the~~ ureter.

26. (Currently amended) A medical device for use within a body cavity, the medical device comprising:

an elongated body portion defining a lumen, said elongated body portion comprising a proximal end for placement within one of a ureter and a bladder of a patient, a distal end for placement within a kidney of the patient, a proximal portion and a distal portion and said elongated body portion including a plurality of pores, said distal portion comprising a planar spiral; and,

a plurality of retention modules, at least one of said plurality of retention modules being attached to said proximal end of said elongated body portion, said at least one of said plurality of retention modules comprising at least one substantially spherical ~~bead~~fixation element attached to the proximal end of said elongated body portion by a substantially elastic tether connector, said ~~bead~~fixation element having a diameter between 3 and 10 millimeters and being substantially buoyant relative to ~~urine~~at least one body fluid.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 127, wherein said bead is substantially spherical, substantially oval, substantially tear-shaped, or substantially peanut-shaped.

29. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent~~medical device~~ of claim 127, wherein said bead is made of~~comprises~~ a polymer.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1530, wherein said bead is substantially spherical, substantially oval, substantially tear-shaped, or substantially peanut-shaped.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1530, wherein said bead is made of~~comprises~~ a polymer.

33. (New) A ureteral stent for placement in a ureter comprising:

an elongated body portion defining a lumen, the body portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a proximal portion, and a distal portion, the proximal portion of the elongated body portion is substantially more compressible than the other portions of the elongated body portion; and

a retention module disposed proximal to the proximal end of the elongated body portion, the retention module having a fixation element attached to the elongated body portion by a tether connector.

34. (New) The ureteral stent of claim 33, wherein the fixation element has a size and configuration that prohibits the passage of the fixation element from a bladder of a patient into a lumen of a ureter of the patient.

35. (New) The ureteral stent of claim 33, the fixation element being a first fixation element, the retention module having a second fixation element attached to the elongated body portion.

36. (New) The ureteral stent of claim 33, the fixation element being a first fixation element, the retention module having a second fixation element attached to the elongated body portion by the tether connector.